



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Debris removal in Joplin area picks up

Joplin, Mo., June 11, 2011 – With more than 500 hauling units pulling debris out of the Joplin area, the Corps of Engineers and their contractors surpassed the 200,000 cubic yards milestone yesterday. This accounts for more than 110,000 cubic yards of construction and demolition material and 125,000 cubic yards of vegetation.

“This number just accounts for what we’re hauling out,” explained Kyle McCune, the Corps’ Mission Manager for debris removal. “There’s no way for us to track what’s been cleared by private property owners or some of the businesses that are trying to reopen.”

A third disposal location for construction and demolition material was identified at Construction Waste of America’s transfer station on the western edge of Joplin. This close location will allow for a lot quicker turnaround time between when the trucks are loaded, when they unloaded and when they return to area neighborhoods to pick up more debris. Officials believe that this will significantly increase the rate of debris removal.

“The numbers for debris removal are quite significant now. However, as the crews start getting into additional passes through neighborhoods, we might see the numbers drop off a bit,” McCune added. “This is just due to the fact that they may have to make more stops to get a full load.”

With more than 500 debris hauling units on the city streets, the public and expect to see considerably more traffic than they would normally encounter. Everyone is urged to use vigilance while on area roadways and plan for longer transit times.

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[NOTE TO EDITORS: Contact our public affairs office if for full resolution images.]

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Debris removal trucks continuously roll in to the collection sites. Trucks stop at check points where USACE Quality Assurance Inspectors (Q&A) estimate load quantities and record each one. Debris removal is one of four missions assigned to the Corps of Engineers by FEMA to help the southwestern Missouri communities recover from this disaster. Here, trucks pull into the Schifferdecker disposal site for vegetation disposal.

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A self-loading debris removal truck works in a neighborhood on the western edge of the affected area earlier this week. The first load of debris hauled through the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Debris Management Mission for this response was made on Thursday, June 2. Since then, more than 235,000 cubic yards of debris has been removed. This accounts for approximately 8 percent of an estimated 3 million cubic yards of debris the Corps expects to remove.

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